(Rev. 10-90) NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property	
Historic name Wintergreen Country Store	
other names/site number <u>Harris Store</u> , <u>Slaughter's</u> , <u>Fitzpa</u>	atrick's, VHDR file number 062-0117
2. Location	
street & number Intersection of Route 151 and Route 627 city or town Nellysford state Virginia code VA county Nelson code 125	7, 1368 Rockfish Valley Highway not for publication N/A vicinity X Zip 22958
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	
nomination request for determination of eligibility meets th	vation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this \underline{X} e documentation standards for registering properties in the National ional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the riteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant leet for additional comments.)
Signature of certifying official Date Virginia Department of Historic Resources State or Federal agency and bureau In my opinion, the property meets does not mee for additional comments.)	et the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet
Signature of commenting or other official	Date
State or Federal agency and bureau	
4. National Park Service Certification	
I, hereby certify that this property is:entered in the National RegisterSee continuation sheet.	
determined eligible for the	Signature of Keeper
National Register	
See continuation sheet determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register other (explain):	Date of Action

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Wintergreen Store Nelson Co., VA

F. Classification		
5. Classification Ownership of Property (Check as many b	oves as apply)	
X private	oxes as apply)	
public-local		
public-rocar public-State		
public-Federal		
public-redetal		
Category of Property (Check only one box	x)	
X building(s)		
district		
site		
structure		
object		
Number of Resources within Property		
Contributing Noncontributing		
_1		
$\frac{1}{0}$ 0 sites		
0o structures 0objects		
<u>1</u> 0 Total		
_ _		
Number of contributing resources previous	y listed in the National Register	r <u>0</u>
Name of related multiple property listing (F	Enter "N/A" if property is not par	rt of a multiple property listing.)
N/A		
6. Function or Use	:	
Historic Functions (Enter categories from		
Cat: Commerce	Sub: General Store	
Domestic	Single Dwelling	
Government	Post Office	
	•	
Current Functions (Enter categories from		
Cat: Commerce	Sub: Specialty Store	
Domestic	Multiple Dwelling	

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7. Descript	ion
Architectu	ral Classification (Enter categories from instructions)
	0 th Century American Movement
	ercial Style
	
Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
	tion Stone – Granite, Sandstone, Concrete
	letal - Tin
	Wood - Weatherboard
other _	
	Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) d continuation Sheet
8. Stateme	nt of Significance
Applicable	National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for
	egister listing)
<u>X</u> A	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of
	our history.
R	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
<u>X</u> C	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or
<u>_A</u> _C	
	represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and
	distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.
Criteria Co	onsiderations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)
A	owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B	removed from its original location.
C	a birthplace or a grave.
D	a cemetery.
E	a reconstructed building, object or structure.
F	a commemorative property.
	1 1 J
G	less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.
	reas than 50 years of age of demoted significance within the past 50 years.

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Period of Significance 1908 – 1953 Significant Dates 1908 1928 1953 Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) Cultural Affiliation	Areas of Significance (En Architecture Commerce	ter categories from instructions)	
Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) Cultural Affiliation	Period of Significance 190	08 – 1953	
Cultural Affiliation Architect/Builder Grover C Harris Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) 9. Major Bibliographical References Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.) See attached continuation on file (NPS) X_ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested. previously listed in the National Register previously listed in the National Register designated a National Historic Landmark recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # Primary Location of Additional Data X_ State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency Local government University Other	<u>1928</u>		
Architect/Builder Grover C Harris Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) 9. Major Bibliographical References Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.) See attached continuation on file (NPS) X preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested. previously listed in the National Register previously determined eligible by the National Register designated a National Historic Landmark recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # Primary Location of Additional Data X State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency Local government University Other	Significant Person (Comp	lete if Criterion B is marked above)
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) 9. Major Bibliographical References Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.) See attached continuation sheet Previous documentation on file (NPS) X preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested. previously listed in the National Register previously determined eligible by the National Register designated a National Historic Landmark recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # Primary Location of Additional Data X State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency Federal agency Local government University Other	Cultural Affiliation		
9. Major Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.) See attached continuation sheet Previous documentation on file (NPS) X preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested. previously listed in the National Register previously determined eligible by the National Register designated a National Historic Landmark recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # Primary Location of Additional Data X_ State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency Local government University Other	Architect/Builder Grover	· C Harris	
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Primary Location of Additional Data _X_ State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency Federal agency Local government University Other	 X preliminary determinated previously listed in the previously determined designated a National recorded by Historic A 	e National Register eligible by the National Register Historic Landmark American Buildings Survey #	
Local government University Other	Primary Location of Add _X_ State Historic Preserv Other State agency	itional Data	
Name of repository:	Local government University Other		
	Name of repository:		_

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Wintergreen Store Nelson Co., VA

10. Geographical Data			
Acreage of Property .25 Acres			
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a conclusion of Easting Northing 1 17 684760 4194920 2 See continuation sheet.	ontinuation sheet)		
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of	the property on a c	continuation	sheet.)
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were	selected on a contin	nuation sheet	t.)
11. Form Prepared By			
name/title: Peter Agelasto Organization:			date <u>6/23/05</u>
street & number: 815 Cavalier Drive telephon	e <u>757-428-8746</u>		
city or town <u>Virginia Beach</u> stat	e <u>VA</u>		_ zip code <u>23451-3839</u>
Additional Documentation			
Submit the following items with the completed form:			
Continuation Sheets			
Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the pro A sketch map for historic districts and properties having		merous reso	urces.
Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the proper	erty.		
Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any ad	ditional items)		
Property Owner			
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.) namePeter Agelasto			
street & number 815 Cavalier Drive		_telephone_	757-428-8746
city or townVirginia Beach	stateVA	_ zip code	23451-3839
Panerwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected			

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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7. Summary Description:

The Wintergreen Store is located in Wintergreen, 1.5 miles west of Nellysford in rural Nelson County, Virginia. The store is situated on a one-quarter acre plot on the northeast corner of the intersection of Routes 151 and 627. The building is a one- and two-story, shed roofed, frame vernacular building with weatherboard siding on a masonry and concrete foundation. The store was built in four phases. The original store was a one-story, one-room, three-bay structure with a single-story porch, built by Grover Harris between 1908 and 1909. The second section, added in the late 1920s, extended the one-story store to the north and to the east. A few years later, the third phase added a two-story section to the south side of the store with a two-story porch on the west side, and a one-story porch extending the length of the east side of the store. The fourth phase was added by Wintergreen, the Virginia Limited Partnership, as an office building and welcoming center when the Wintergreen ski resort was first built in 1974-5. This phase included the addition of the second floor over the shop area and an addition at the northeast corner of the original store.

The building originally included a one-room general store. Later, in the 1920s, the store was enlarged with added living space for the family that ran the store in a two-story addition to the south. In the 1940s the post office was moved from across the road, where a small shed had served as the post office, to the Wintergreen store. After closing as an office and gift shop for the Wintergreen resort, the building was used as a meeting place for an Episcopal Church mission. Currently, it functions as an art gallery with three attached apartments. The grounds are used for public events.

Detailed Description

The Wintergreen store is located in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Rockfish Valley. The front façade faces the valley and is less than 20 feet from Route 151. To the north, about

100 feet away, there is a fenced pasture that extends along the eastern elevation of the building. To the east of the building, varying in distance from 60 to 120 feet is Spruce Creek. To the south, about 100 feet away, is Route 627, across from which is the foundation of an old grist mill operated by the store's founder, Grover C. Harris, who acquired the mill site from the Gannaway family in 1928. The mill ruins are not included in this nomination, and the mill wheel itself was

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given to the Wintergreen Resort, restored, and incorporated into the Mountain Inn at Wintergreen.

The store was built on a masonry, rock and concrete foundation. The entire structure is covered by a standing-seam metal shed roof, which slopes from west to east and has eaves, which project several inches on all sides of the building. There is no access to the small crawl space in the attic. The sides of the house are covered in weatherboard siding, painted white.

The original Wintergreen Store was a three-bay, one-story, one-room wood structure that was 20 feet 4 inches wide and 22 feet 1 inch deep. This first portion also included a one-story porch on the west façade, measuring 20 feet 11 inches wide and 7 feet 1 inch deep. The five-panel double doors and two two-over-two double-hung sash windows on the exterior have plain trim, while the interior opening trim is fluted and features bull's-eye corner blocks. The south and west walls in this section are covered with wide horizontal wood board paneling; however, the north and east walls were removed when the second section was added. Differences in the ceiling heights, mismatched wall paneling and window and door trim reflect changes made during the first enlargement of the store.

The second portion of the building, added north and east of the original section, enlarged the store around 1925. This addition extended the front façade about 15 feet and is set at an angle to the northeast of the front (west) façade. This section has a three-bay front façade, consisting of two double-hung sash windows on either side of a four-panel door. The door and southernmost window have plain trim, while the trim of the northernmost window has been replaced. With this addition the entire store was expanded to 35 feet wide and 40 feet deep. In the interior of the second phase addition, there is another two-over-two double hung sash window in the northwest corner. Towards the northeast corner is a half-glass door leading to a small masonry porch, with a door further east that leads to restroom facilities added in the fourth phase. To the east of the enlarged area of the first and second phases there is another half-glass door leading to the porch added in the third phase. When the store expanded towards the east, 5-inch square timbers were added to support the enlarged store. A pressed-metal ceiling covers the ceiling of the enlarged area. The wooden floor of the enlarged area was replaced after the 1969-70 flood.

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During the third phase, a two-story, 20 feet wide by 25 feet 6 inches deep addition was constructed in 1928, a short time after the second phase. This portion was constructed with a two-story porch on the front (west) façade and a one-story porch on the east elevation. A door was added to the south in the enlarged store from the first two sections to allow access to the new addition. On the two floors of the third section there were originally two rooms; a stair hall on the north side and a room on the south. The stair features a turned wooden newel and simple square balusters. There are three steps leading to a landing where ten more steps lead to the second story.

In this portion of the third section, the stair halls have a door to the west, leading to their respective levels of the two-story porch. A half-glass door is featured on the first floor opposite a four-over-four double-hung sash while the door on the second floor is a four-panel door. The two rooms on the south side of the stair hall on both floors have double four-over-four double-hung sash windows looking out on to the front (west) façade two-story porch. Each room also has a four-over-four double-hung sash window in the south wall. The first-floor room has another door to the east leading to the east elevation porch. On the second floor there is also a door leading to the east elevation, however, the room into which the door leads was not fully finished until the fourth phase. The floorboards are exposed in this room and they show the slant of the original shed roof over the single-story porch on the east elevation. The walls in this addition are plaster.

The fourth phase finished the open area above the original three- bay section of the store and constructed the addition to the northeast corner of the second phase. This addition also included the enclosure of a portion of the single-story porch on the eastern elevation and the addition of a room over the enclosed porch. The second-story addition of the fourth phase has an 8-foot-wide passageway on the south side that extends the depth of the addition. At the west end of the passageway there is a two-over-two double-hung sash window. Two similar windows are seen to the south. At the east end of the passageway there is a five-panel door leading to the second story of the two-story porch on the rear (east) elevation. On the north side of this passageway there are two rooms. The northwest room has a window to the north and to the east. Each of these windows, and the two five-panel doors leading to the rooms as well as the door to the east leading to the porch, all have simple four-inch wide rounded board trim on the interior. On the exterior is modern two-inch wide tongue and groove trim. Each of these rooms and the **Section**

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passageway have modestly molded baseboards. The Harris sleeping porch on the west front was removed and a flat roof installed. Above this is a large wooden name panel used by Wintergreen Resort to identify their headquarters when the building was converted to their business offices and exhibition space.

The current owner added outside steps in 1992 on the east side of the building and configured certain interior spaces for the apartments but did not make any other exterior changes. The interior shelving that can now be seen was added primarily by the Wintergreen, Virginia Limited Partnership, but it is our understanding that the shelving follows the lines of the original shelving.

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8. Statement of Significance

The intersection of State Route 627 (Glenthorne Loop) and State Route 151 (Rockfish Valley Highway) in Nelson County, Virginia, has been a center of commerce since the mid 1800s. There have been three stores built at this intersection and another store stood nearby in the general vicinity of present day Wintergreen. Of these stores, only the Wintergreen Store is still standing. General stores in rural areas like Wintergreen and Nellysford provided necessary items such as goods and tools to the local population, who were mostly farmers. The Wintergreen Store, in fact, was the backbone of the local agricultural economy, providing goods, especially agricultural supplies, on credit to the small farmers in the area. The store was also important because of the presence of Grover Harris's mill immediately across the road from the store, which was an important part of the local economy and attracted casual shoppers waiting at the mill. Payment for using the mill was paid in the store. The bar inside the store attracted local residents as did its post office and voting precinct. The Wintergreen Store served as the community hub where events were held and people gathered to learn of current events and socialize with neighbors as well as conduct business.

If the property's first life was as the Harris Store and residence, its second life extended from 1974 to 1978 as the Wintergreen Resort offices and exhibition/sales facility. The third life is the current use as an art gallery and apartments, with Spruce Creek Park, birding trails, horticultural activities and a firewood business. All of these varied lives have made the store a center for the community. The Wintergreen Resort has changed this section of the County into a prime destination for tourists, and the current use of the Wintergreen Store reaches out as much to the visitor as it does to the local community.

Justification of Criteria

Having served as a source of supply, a social gathering spot and a community center since the beginning of the century, the Wintergreen Store is inextricably tied to the history of rural Nelson County. The Store is associated with the history of commerce in the County and is eligible under Criterion A. The Wintergreen Store is the only remaining example of a succession of stores that once served the Wintergreen area. As an example of how rural general stores expanded to adapt to the changing commercial times, the store is eligible under Criterion C. The changes made by

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Wintergreen Resort and the current adaptation are the most recent reactions to update and make the structure meet the changing needs of the community while retaining its appearance as a rural general store.

Historical Background

In 1908, John Harris deeded a one-quarter acre lot to his son Grover for the sum of five dollars and the natural love and affection they bore. The purpose of the property, according to the deed, was for "erecting a store and dwelling." John Harris wanted his son to have a future business and place to live. John Harris was himself a farmer, owning 450 acres at what was then Wintergreen, on which was built the Harris household, which was called Winter Green (two words, in contrast to the estate and store, which were named Wintergreen.) Part of the Winter Green house dates to the 18th century and the property is now right off the highway. The Harris family house is located to the northwest of the store, just across Route 151. The nomination does not the Winter Green house; it is on a different parcel of land under different ownership.

The name Wintergreen for the community itself was not used until the early 20th century, and like many other place names in the area the location called Wintergreen has shifted over the years. The community shows up on 19th century Virginia maps named after the local store, presumably as the store was the only building of note. Thus, the community's name changed from Slaughter's Store to the Coleman Store, and, at the end of the 19th century, to Fitzpatrick's. In the 1930s there were two communities called Wintergreen and Nellysford in close conjunction with each other, but now the community is called Nellysford to eliminate confusion with the local Wintergreen resort.

Of the general stores built around the junction of Route 151 and 627 over the years, the Wintergreen store is the only one that remains. No other store existed in the immediate area during the general period of the store's operation. A small store did exist two miles north and began in the 1940s as the Campbell Grocery. It closed in the 1970s, and was most successful after Grover Harris's death in the 1950s. The Beech Grove Community had its own stores, but they were at least seven miles away from the Wintergreen store, too far for casual travel before the prevalence of the automobile.

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The Foster Family store at the intersection of Rt. 151 and 664 and the Duncan Store 2 miles north on Rt. 664 served those small communities with gasoline, and Duncan with sundries. The Wintergreen Store, though, was the center of activity for the area and the neighborhood. People who lived in those other areas still used the Wintergreen Store, because the store offered a wider variety of goods, served multiple roles as a bar, voting precinct post office, and neighbor to a mill. The Wintergreen Store was an early precursor to the modern notion of 'one-stop shopping.'

The Wintergreen Store was not the only store in the immediate area over the years, though. The earliest store in the vicinity was owned by Dr. Hawes Coleman on his Elk Hill property, which is roughly a mile down the road from the Wintergreen Store. Chancery records show that Dr. Coleman died in 1879 and closed his store prior to his death. A second store, Slaughter's and Fitzpatrick's, was operated on the west side of the old public road (Route 627) leading into the Rockfish Valley. This store and lot were sold to J.E. Gannaway in 1897. This second store was operated by the Gannaway family on the south side of Rt. 627, where the mill site is located. The deeds mention a mill as part of the Gannaway store. However, the deed says that the store burned down sometime before the Wintergreen store was built. A third store, a small commercial building, was located on the opposite corner of the intersection from the Wintergreen store and was tied to the mill operation. There is a stone foundation still visible, but what happened to the store is unknown. The post office, which became part of the Wintergreen store in the 1940s, was likely located in this third store before moving into the Wintergreen Store. Post cards exist with a date stamp and locality name from this post office. Harris bought the land this third store was situated on from Ida Fitzgerald in 1939.

Harris purchased the Slaughter's And Fitzpatrick's store site in 1925 and the Gannaway Mill site in 1928. Most likely, this land purchase resulted in the enlargement of the Wintergreen store to accommodate more business and the addition of the grist mill. Two local residents, Freddie Phillips and Oscar Fitch were, respectively, in their teens and late twenties when they remember the large two-story addition being constructed, dating the two-story addition to about 1928-1929. Tax records are incomplete through the 1920s, but the taxes for the property remained the same from 1930 until Grover Harris died in 1953. These records suggest that the additions occurred before the Wintergreen, Virginia Limited Partnership purchase in 1974.

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While there were no physical additions to the store from 1930 to 1953, the store did expand in terms of services. The post office for the local area moved into the store in the 1940s, and stayed until the store closed some years after Grover Harris's death. Similarly, the store functioned as a local voting precinct, a function that ceased once the store closed. While the county was the home of the Central Virginia Electric Cooperative the store did not use much electricity – goods continued to be cooled in an old-fashioned icebox. Since much of the store's inventory was goods rather than food, and since the food was generally preserved in some way, refrigeration was not a large issue.

The Wintergreen Store is a symbol of the recent past to many Nellysford residents. For many, it is a place they have known been all their lives and a subject of many of their parents' stories. To others, the Wintergreen Store was an integral part of their childhood, as the only local store they could frequent. There are memories and stories. In 1969, Hurricane Camille left its mark on the community and the store, including the flooding of the store caused by the rising waters of Spruce Creek.

The store also symbolizes the change from agriculture to a more commercial society. As farming and orchard uses became less intensive, the need for farm supplies decreased. Lifestyles changed and cars allowed people to drive greater distances for a greater variety of goods at cheaper prices, causing a decline in the need for small community stores. The growth of the Wintergreen Store itself symbolizes the growth of commerce and the boom in rural economies, like Nelson County's, in the early 1920s. The 1925-6 enlargement of the store was a result of the booming economy of the Roaring Twenties. This period of remodeling ended when Grover Harris built his living quarters into the store 1928.

The growth in automobile ownership had a significant impact on the success of the store and growth of inventory and sales initially, but was also the cause of the store's downfall. Because the store is situated on a floodplain, it was not possible to add gasoline tanks due to the underlying water table. A small kerosene tank was the most the owners could add. Due to this, gasoline stations better situated sold gas to the growing automobile-owning segment of the population, and eroded the Wintergreen Store's customer base by beginning to sell other items as well. The road the store is situated on, State Route 151, was considered as an alternate and companion route for Rt. 29 in the 1930s and became the main north/south corridor in this part of

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the county. The old road, which is now Route 627, became a minor road and the Route 151 from the store intersection was constructed to handle the increased traffic. This increased traffic to the store, but it also created an ever-growing need for gasoline that the store was geographically unable to fill.

In 1936, Grover Harris and his mother both sold land to the state to widen State Route 151, which coincided with the two-story addition to the south of the Wintergreen store. This was a period of relative prosperity for the area. Huge apple and peach orchards were located in the county that created a large demand for goods during the seasonal swelling of population to service these orchards. Census records show that the population level in Nelson County peaked at 17,277 in 1920, followed by a steady decline as the agricultural economy declined. After the Wintergreen Resort opened there was a small upsurge in this decade that has raised the population to around 14,500 and growing.

In 1942, Grover Harris acquired adjacent land from the heirs of Arthur P. Ewing, and in 1953, through court decree, Grover Harris acquired the remainder of the land left by his father. Later that year he was crushed to death while attempting to clear the mill of an obstruction. The land and store lot was left to his wife, and after her death passed to their children, who continued to run the store.

The land was ultimately sold to Wintergreen, Virginia Limited Partnership on December 13, 1974 by deed from the Harris heirs, as recorded in Deed Book 139 page 326, to support their plan to build a community and ski resort on 10,000 acres in the area. This marked the end of the period where the store functioned as a community store and post office. Wintergreen added the portions of the building designated as the fourth phase after their purchase in 1974. The first story of the store was used as a showroom for the resort, complete with a small scale topographical map of the resort. The upstairs rooms were used as offices.

The present owners, Wintergreen Country Store Land Trust, purchased the land and store in 1979, recorded in Deed Book 173 at Page 460, from Talley-Irwin Associates, who had recently purchased it from the Wintergreen Resort. The trustee and manager is Peter A. Agelasto III.

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The general stores played an important role in the growth of rural Nelson County. The stores

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provided a bar for men to socialize and a place for all to gather and socialize, as well as discuss the current events of the community, much like an oral newspaper. From the memory of those surviving from the first iteration of the store in the early 1900s, the Wintergreen store provided a focal point for a widespread community as the only local commercial establishment. Over the years the store has remained a landmark for the area by playing host to community events.

In the Wintergreen/Nellysford area today there is a small shopping center complex that serves as a commercial hub and dominant feature of the Rockfish Valley, a hub that is radically different from how the Wintergreen Store functioned. The Wintergreen Store, although no longer in use as a store, is the symbol of what the store was to the rural community. It now houses an art gallery and contains three apartments. Numerous community events take place there each year including the annual Rural Health Outreach Program fundraising event and an SPCA fundraiser. Examples of some events and uses of the Wintergreen Store include a Sunday formal tea in the gardens, a wood lot for firewood, and a horticultural sales operation. A number of picnic tables are now available and gardens meander along Spruce Creek along paths across rock and timber bridges. There has even been a wedding held on the grounds. The Wintergreen Store continues to function as a central character in the community just as it did in the past. As once it was a center of commerce, today it is growing as a center of community life.

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Verbal Boundary Description:

The property being nominated is identified as TM 21-4-1 on the tax parcel maps of Nelson County.

It is further described as "...Land lying at Wintergreen, situated between the Afton Road and Spruce Creek and Tail Race, in the said County of Nelson, East 67 feet from the center of said Afton Road to stake corner, then due south 112 feet to stake on bank of Spruce Creek., thence up Spruce Creek to mouth of Tail Race, and up the Tail Race to the center of Afton Road." From Deed Book 45 page 454 conveying property to Grover C Harris from John W Harris (Father) March 12, 1906.

Boundary Justification:

The Wintergreen Store nomination consists of the original one-quarter acre lot conveyed to Grover C Harris in 1906 by his parents for the expressed purpose of erecting a store and dwelling house.

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Major Bibliographical References

Nelson County Chancery records, 1878-80

Nelson County Deed Book 45, p. 454. This deed, dated 3/12/08, is the deed that transferred the property from John W. Harris to Grover C. Harris.

Nelson County Deed Book 51, p. 401. This deed book reference is a bankruptcy discharge that Grover Harris filed in September, 1917.

Nelson County Deed Book 63, p.381. This deed book reference is a transfer of title on 4/6/36 from Grover Harris to the Commonwealth of Virginia, during the construction of State Route 151.

Nelson County Deed Book 66, p. 305. This deed book reference is to when Grover Harris obtained land from Ida Fitzgerald on 7/29/38.

Nelson County Deed Book 71, p.59-60. This deed book reference is to when the Ewings transferred property to Grover Harris on 6/15/42.

Nelson County Deed Book 85, p.220-1. This deed book reference is to the court decree of title to Grover Harris on 2/18/53, only a few months before he died.

Nelson County Deed Book 139, p.326. This deed book reference is to the time that the Wintergreen, Virginia Limited Partnership obtained the land from the Harris estate.

Nelson County Deed Book 173, p.460. This deed book reference is to the time when the current owner obtained the property on 7/25/79.

Nelson County Tax Book, 1930, 1940, 1950, 1960.

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Letter of Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Historic Resources dated January 29, 1991 signed by Robert A Carter, Programs Manager; RE: Wintergreen Store, Nelson County (DHR 62-117).

John Hammond Moore, <u>Albemarle: Jefferson's County 1727-1976.</u> (Charlottesville, Virginia: University of Virginia Press, 1976), 272-3.

Gerald Carson, The Old Country Store (New York: Oxford University Press, 1954), 218-21.

Freddie Phillips, interview by Peter A. Agelasto III, Summer 1990, Nellysford, Virginia. Written.

Oscar Fitch, interview by Peter A. Agelasto III, Summer 1990, Wintergreen, Virginia. Written.

James Truslow, interview by Brian Hennelly, Summer 2005, Wintergreen, Virginia. Written.

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All photographs are of: Wintergreen Store, Nelson County, Virginia Negative Number: 22307 Negatives Filed: DHR, Richmond, VA

Photographer: Betsy Agelasto

Date: 2005

Photo 1 of 9

View: Front, west façade.

Photo 2 of 9

View: Front, west façade.

Photo 3 of 9

View: Front, west façade.

Photo 4 of 9

View: Store entrance, east façade.

Photo 5 of 9

View: Store entrance, east façade.

Photo 6 of 9

View: Side, south façade.

Photo 7 of 9

View: Stair in the third phase.

Photo 8 of 9

View: Southeastern corner of store, from second phase. Store entrance visible.

Photo 9 of 9

View: Interior of store.